I beg further to announce that Mr. S. Sankara Pillai, B. A., Acting Dewan Peishkar, Padmanabhapuram, appointed an official member of the Council, takes his seat to-day.

THE LAND ACQUISITION REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Sankara Pillai.—I beg permission to introduce a Bill to amend the Land Acquisition Regulation, III of 1067. A Section has to be added for the purpose of enabling Division Peishkars to make references to the Civil Courts about awards made by them in land acquisition cases. Under the existing law, Peishkars can only refer the parties to the Civil Courts and it is open to the parties to go to Court or not as they like. The result is a good deal of delay in the grant of compensation. Under the British law, the Collector making the award is authorised to refer a disputed case to the Court direct. A Section corresponding to the above provision in the British Act is proposed to be added by the Bill.

Permission was granted accordingly.

THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL.

Mr. Sankara Menon.—I beg permission to introduce a Bill to regulate Weights and Measures in Travancore. I think the subject came up in the early seventies, when the Abkari Regulation was under consideration. It was again before the Council when the Penal Code Bill was considered. A Bill itself was once introduced into the Council, but somehow or other it was dropped. The necessity for regulating weights and measures was also placed before Government at the last and the previous sessions of the Popular Assembly. I need not therefore expatiate upon the necessity for a Bill of the kind and I request that the Council may be pleased to grant me permission to introduce the Bill.

Permission was granted accordingly.

THE PUBLIC GAMBLING REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Ananda Row.—Sir, permission was granted to me at the last meeting of the Council to introduce a Bill to amend the Public Gambling Regulation, III of 1071. The Bill has been published in the Gazette and circulated among the Members. The Bill contains only a few minor amendments so as to enable the existing Regulation to work satisfactorily. Under the existing law, the burden of proof is heavily laid on the prosecution, which it finds difficult in most cases to discharge and the persons who have gambled get off without any punishment. I have therefore suggested the embodiment of a few Sections in the Regulation, which are more or less close adaptations of the British Act III of 1867. As regards the possible objection against throwing the onus of proof on the defence, I have only to say that the Regulation is a special law and in all special laws the burden *is* thrown on the defence. I beg, therefore, to introduce the Bill and to request that the principle of it may be affirmed.

Seconded by Mr. Vieyra.

Carried.

The Council having affirmed the principle of the Bill, Mr. Ananda Row proposed that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Messrs. Vieyra, Sri Narayanan Tampi and the Mover, to report within one month.

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE GOVERNMENT LAND CONSERVANCY REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Ananda Row.—Sir, I beg to introduce the Bill to amend the Government Land Conservancy Regulation, II of 1067. As explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, one of the three objects of the Bill is to bring the Sripadom lands within the scope of the Regulation. At present, even if the ryots holding

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Sripadom lands encroach upon any public pathway within the limits of such lands, we cannot deal with them under the existing Regulation. Several years ago, this question came up before Government, but it was then reserved for consideration in connection with the Land Revenue Code Bill. It is also proposed to make the Bill applicable to the conservancy of lands, within the limits of Private Estates and Edavagais, intended for public use and maintained by Government. A provision is also embodied in the Bill to recover the cost of eviction and removal of encroachments. The Regulation at present provides for the recovery of damages alone. At any rate it has been understood not to include the cost of eviction. I request, therefore, that the Bill be read in Council and its principle affirmed.

Seconded by Mr. Subramania Iyer.

Carried.

The Council having affirmed the principle of the Bill, Mr. Ananda Row proposed that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Messrs. Vieyra, Sri Narayanan Tampi and the Mover, to report within one month.

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE VAKILS' REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Ananda Row.— Sir, I beg to introduce the Bill to amend the Vakils' Regulation, III of 1075. The reasons for the amendments are explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill. The High Court have, in a recent case, ruled that a permanent Government employé, holding an office other than that of a Sirkar Vakil, Professor of Law or Law Reporter, cannot appear, act or plead before them as Acting Head Sirkar Vakil. The amendment seeks to remove this disability. I must, however, draw attention to the fact that under Section 1 of the Bill, as it is now worded, it is competent to Government to appoint anybody as Head Sirkar Vakil, whether he is a Vakil or not and it is for the Council to settle whether such power should be taken by Government. I beg that the principle of the Bill be affirmed.

Seconded by Mr. Sankara Menon.

Carried.

The Council having affirmed the principle of the Bill, Mr. Ananda Row proposed that it be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Messrs. Vieyra, Sri Narayanan Tampi and the Mover, to report within one month.

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE POLICE REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Sankara Menon.—Sir, in accordance with the permission granted to me at the last meeting of the Council, I beg now to propose to further amend the Police Regulation, IV of 1056, as amended by Regulation II of 1058. The Bill, with the Statement of Objects and Reasons, has already been published in the Gazette and copies thereof have been circulated among the members and 15 days have elapsed since the date of publication. I therefore ask that the Bill be taken up for consideration at once and its principle affirmed in Council.

The Bill is drafted on the lines of Sections 15, 15 A and 16 of the Indian Act V of 1861, as amended by Act VIII of 1895.

Section 1 of the draft Bill introduces three new provisions into the existing Regulation, the first two of which correspond to Sections 15 and 15 A of the Indian Act. By the first, power is given to Government to quarter additional police in disturbed localities and to levy the cost of their employment from the inhabitants thereof. It also deals with the mode of apportionment of the cost and the period for which the punitive police may be quartered. As the guardian of the peace of the district, the District Magistrate is authorised to apportion the cost among the inha-

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